Infrastructure Facilities at Jajmau, Kanpur

†1858. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that a project costing Rs. 11.30 crores had been sanctioned as a joint project for upgradation of infrastructure facilities in Jajmau, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) Whether it is also a fact that Government have to release payment of Rs. 1.50 crore against this project;

(c) If so, the reason for not releasing this amount even after the utilisation of State's share in it; and

(d) by when the amount will be released?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) State Government of Uttar Pradesh has submitted a project costing Rs. 11.30 crores for upgradation of infrastructural facilities in Jajmau, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh to central Government. Under the CIB Scheme, the Central Government has sanctioned only the power system component of the project at a total cost of Rs. 3.50 crores.

(b) The Cenral Government has released Rs. 1.75 crores being its share of the sanctioned project to the State Government.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Export of Agricultural Products

1859. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it a fact that the export growth of agriculture and allied products like pulses, tobacco, sugar and molasses etc. has been registering a negative growth for the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government proposed to take to augment the export of these items?

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) the major agro commodities exported are pulses, rice wheat, cereals, tobacoo, spices, cashew, seasame and nigerseeds, groundnut, spirit and beverages guargum meal, oil meal, shellac, sugar, meat and meat preparations, poultry and dairy products, floriculture products, fruit and vegetables seeds, fresh fruits and vegetables, processed fruits and juices and vegetables etc. The value of agro items exported excluding marine products tea, coffee, castor oil and cotton during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Value (Rs.000 crores)
1997-98	15.2
1998-99	15.96
1999-2000 (April-August)	5.6
1998-99 (April-August)	6.3

SOURCE: DGCI&S, Calcutta

(c) The Government have taken various measures including provision of financial assistance to boost production and export of agricultural products. The measures taken to enhance export of agriculture products inter alia include:

(i) Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical know how of farmers through demonstration, training and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, area expansion, supply of minikits for vegetables, improving productivity and training of farmers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone fruits;

(ii) Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment;

(iii) Providing financial assistance to exporter/growers/Cooperative Societies for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of pre-cooling/cold

storage facilities, integrated post-harvest handling systems (Pack Houses);

(iv) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control including adoption of quality systems such as ISO 9000/HACCP at export units;

(v) Grant of air freight subsidy for export of selected fresh vegetables and fresh fruits and floricultural products;

(vi) Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for improving the acceptability of the product especially mangoes in overseas markets. Research efforts are on for the use of modern technologies such as Controlled/Modified Atmosphere technologies for increasing the shelf life and for transportation of perishable products such as mangoes and lychees;

(vii) Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions;

(viii) Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such as fresh fruits and vegetables;

(ix) Providing technical advisory services and other support services to trade and industry including training of farmers for export production, quality control, packaging, transport etc.

Use of Chittagong Port for Development of NER

1860. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to Bangladesh Government to use the Chittagong port for the purpose of commercial development of North Eastern Region; and

(b) whether Government have any proposal to Bangladesh Government for building an express highway connecting Tripura with West Bengal via Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The Government of India has made